

The New Ontario Potato Trade

RECENTLY, mention was made of the steps that had been taken to develop a seed potato industry in the New Liskeard district in New Ontario. That the northern sections of Ontario are eminently suited to potato culture, and that the sections north of Lake Superior can lay claim to attention for the production of this crop, is borne out by the report of L. M. Davis, the representative of the Department of Agriculture in the Thunder Bay District. Mr. Davis reports to the Department as follows:

"Up to the present time there have been about thirty carloads of potatoes shipped from Port Arthur section this year, the price ranging from about \$1.15, sacks included, up to \$1.25 loose in the car, that is for first-class table stock. I have told you several times already about our effort at growing seed potatoes. I have now to tell you that one of the growers has disposed of 300 bags of his seed stock at \$1.50 per bag. At the same time, the other half of the car in which these were shipped was filled with first-class table stock at \$1.25 per bag. These potatoes were sent to Chatham to be used for seeding purposes. We have received word from Chatham that the potatoes are satisfactory in every way.

"It will be noted that this difference of 50c per bag represents the difference between No. 1 and Extra No. 1 stock, and not the difference between No. 1 stock and No. 2 stock. The important point, however, in connection with this work is that the extra 75c received for the three hundred bags of potatoes cost the producer something less than 10 hours' labor. This gives some idea of the reward which awaits the farmer who will do the extra."

The Gasoline Tractor as a Source of Power for the Farm

(Continued from Page 5.)

horses either too many must be kept for other seasons the work is spread out over too long a period.

The quality of work done by a tractor depends upon the operator and the adjustment of the plow. Properly handled, a tractor will do just as good plowing as can be done by horses, provided horses are used for striking out and finishing up lands, but for other kinds of work the tractor is at a great disadvantage. There is altogether too much power lost on account of poor footing. To be employed satisfactorily fields of reasonable size are necessary. In small fields too much time is spent in turning and too high a proportion of the field has to be finished up with horses.

It is no easy matter to operate a tractor satisfactorily with hired help. When the operator is hired it is important that the owner of the outfit understands its operation in order that it be not abused.

The amount of labor that can be saved depends upon the use of the tractor. With the larger sizes that pull six, eight or ten plows the saving is considerable; with a two-plow size there is no saving, as a man can plow just as much with a four-horse team and a gang plow as he will with a two-plow tractor. It would seem that a tractor should pull at least four plows to warrant its purchase on account of saving labor.

Great improvements in the tractor have been made within the past five years. They are simpler in construction and more efficient in operation. Manufacturers are awake to the necessity of still further perfecting them, and we may expect to see even greater improvement within the next few years. They are now working under a greater variety of conditions, and their defects will be the more quickly brought to light and corrected. We may confidently expect the tractor to occupy in the not distant future a

more important place as a farm power than it does at present.

The Social Service Congress

THE Ontario Social Service Congress, to be held in Toronto, Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, promises to be an important event in the development of social work in the province. Of special interest to rural workers will be the address on "Graft, the Evil and the Cure," by Mr. E. C. Drury, President Dominion Grange, and the sections: conference on Rural Life, which will include addresses on "Recreational Life" by Alex. McLaren, B.S.A., O.A.C., Guelph; "Educational Ideals," by Dr. J. B. Dandene, Dept. of Education,

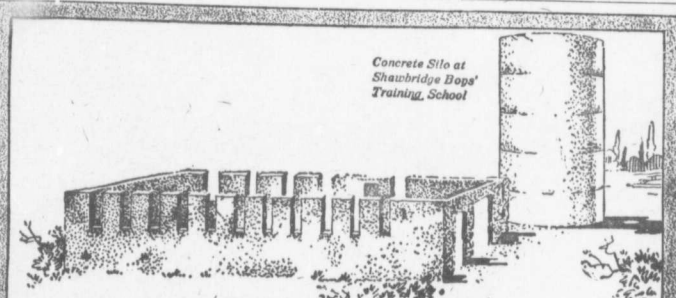
Life," by Rev. W. K. Shearer, B.A., Drumbo, Ont.; and "The Social Organization of the Rural Community," by Rev. T. Albert Moore, D.D., General Secretary Social Service and Evangelism, the Methodist Church. The program for the congress includes speeches by many of he leading authorities on social service work in Canada.

There are some perennials, such as tritomas and incarnillas, which are best lifted and wintered in a cold cellar. Be careful that the plants do not become too dry. Peonies of all kinds, tree, singles and doubles, have been wintered successfully, the only covering being their own foliage.

Manitoba's 1916 Potato Crop

ACCORDING to the official December report of Manitoba, the potato crop of that province is steadily increasing in acreage. Between 1909, with 25,245 acres, and 1916, with 67,243 acres, the yearly advance was unbroken. This year showed an acreage slightly smaller than last year, but with a larger yield per acre, and a total crop of 9,080,602 bushels, as compared with an average total for the ten previous years of 6,661,947 bushels.

Although the yield per acre is below the average of 165.9 which prevailed for the previous ten years, Manitoba has this year been an active exporter of potatoes at good prices.



This Silo Defied Three Fires

THIS illustration is from an actual photograph of a silo at the Boys' Training School, Shawbridge, Quebec. On three different occasions this Concrete Silo has withstood the attacks of fire. The silo was built in 1910 along-side a wooden barn. When this

barn burned, the scaffolding of the silo was still in place; and although the silo was thereby heated to a red glow, and the concrete was not damaged. In fact, the silage was put into it immediately after the fire. Since then, this silo has passed through two other fires and is still in use. After the 1910 fire, the barn floor and basement walls were built of concrete, and a root cellar was placed under the concrete floor. During the second fire,

the cellar was full of roots, which were afterwards found to be in good condition. Its wonderful fireproof-quality is but one of concrete's advantages. We have a book that describes all its advantages—and that tells just how you can use concrete to best advantage on your farm. Contains plans and full directions for scores of valuable improvements—most of which can be made in your spare time and with but a small cash outlay. The title of the book is



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